



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
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19 March 2025

**Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 9555/25 To ask the Minister for Health if there is an avenue for people on public dental waiting lists to be provided with access to community or private providers.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,
The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The Department of Health has provided significant funding of €24.2m over the past number of years to oral health initiatives, which provide access to private providers. These initiatives have enabled access to treatment for orthodontics and orthognathic patients on waiting lists.

In addition, there are two structured schemes, The Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS) and Cross Border Directive Scheme, which are designed to provide funding for patients. Access to these schemes is initiated by patients, who fund treatment directly and claim refund through these schemes.

The HSE's 2025 National Service Plan aims to continue to develop services and implement waiting list initiatives across a range of dental and orthodontic services and maximise activity across these services to manage waiting lists and waiting times.

The service plan supports the implementation of the Government's National Oral Health Policy, Smile Agus Sláinte, including the development of comprehensive oral healthcare packages for roll-out to children aged from birth to seven years of age.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

**Anne O'Neill
Assistant National Director, Oral Health**